

## STATE OF CALIFORNIA

## BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY DEPARTMENT OF CORPORATIONS

California's Investment and Financing Authority

## **NEWS RELEASE**

04-48

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

William P. Wood, Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Monday, November 29, 2004

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## California Department of Corporations Revokes <u>Instafi.com's Finance Lenders License</u>

SACRAMENTO --- The California Department of Corporations issued an order revoking the California finance lenders license of Irvine based Instafi.com and company president Sean R. Roberts effective immediately. The order brings to a close the Department's action initiated on January 26, 2004 to address the sudden and unanticipated closure of Instafi and to help protect borrowers.

The Department of Corporations received a letter from Instafi on December 26, 2003, stating that it had ceased doing business effective immediately and was applying to surrender its license. Instafi's sudden closure was without prior notice, either to the Department or its borrowers, as required by law. The information from Instafi indicated that approximately 200 pending loans had been transferred to another loan servicer. The Department requested information from Instafi to adequately protect the public, Instafi's borrowers, and to facilitate the orderly closure of the business. In addition, the Department created an information page for customers of Instafi on it's website as well as making certain all loans were serviced.

Instafi originally filed a Notice of Defense and requested a hearing before the Office of Administrative Hearings, which was set for November 19, 2004, but later stipulated to the final revocation order of its finance lenders license.

"We are pleased that Instafi was able to consent to the terms of the agreement, which resolves the matter without the necessity or expense of a hearing and additional litigation," said Corporations Commissioner William P. Wood. "This action is intended to constitute a full, final and complete resolution of this matter and to ensure that the public interest is well served." The enforcement action was handled by Senior Corporations Counsel Judy Hartley.

The Department of Corporations is California's Investment and Financing Authority, reporting to the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency and the Governor. The Department is responsible for the regulation, enforcement and licensing of securities, franchises, off-exchange commodities, investment and financial services, independent escrows, consumer and commercial finance lending and residential mortgage lending. For further information or to obtain a complaint form, see the Department's Web site at <a href="https://www.corp.ca.gov">www.corp.ca.gov</a> or call 1-866-ASK-CORP (1-866-275-2677).